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South Plainfield Observer

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50 CENTS

FEBRUARY 22, 2008

Council Blocks New Market Ext.

At a special meeting held Tuesday night after the agenda meeting, a bond ordinance for \$1.1M was tabled as soon as it was introduced, in effect stopping any further improvements to the intersection of New Market Avenue and Hamilton Boulevard. The vote to table the ordinance went along party lines, 4-2.

The ordinance would have been used to purchase a portion of property on the Cornell-Dubilier site needed for Phase 1 of the New Market Extension.

The property, which is contaminated, was assessed at \$5,000. However, according to state law, the bond to purchase the property must be for the amount of the assessed value after remediation, not in its present state of contamination. After the purchase, South Plainfield could then appeal to the courts to lower the purchase price. Mayor Charles Butrico estimated the property would have cost the borough about \$100,000 and the full amount of the bond would not have to be used.

The purchase of the property, in addition to the demolition of three houses on Hamilton Boulevard, would have allowed trucks to go straight through the intersection and avoid the sharp right and left turns they now traverse in order to get onto Spicer Avenue.

Before the introduction of the ordinance, Joann Graf had asked members of the council to put a freeze on spending until her Alternate Truck Route Ad Hoc Committee had a chance to find an alternative truck route. She added that there are no funds available from the State or Federal Government at this time and funding would be needed to build a new road. Graf also revealed her plans for the truck route, which would take trucks down Ryan Street, onto Hollywood Avenue and over the soccer fields and the compactor, onto Metuchen Road. She said she has already discussed the plans with Edison Wetlands Association and got a tentative approval from the group. This plan is in the early stages and would mean the soccer fields, as well as the compactor, would have to be relocated, but it would take trucks off of residential streets. The ad hoc committee will hold their first meeting next Thursday, Feb. 28 at the senior center at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Councilman Ray Rusnak said he felt that before any more money is spent on the New Market Extension, we should look at the overall picture, including repairing New Market Avenue. He said that it was similar to putting in new floors in your home while the roof is leaking and not fixing the leak.

Councilman Ray Petronko said he was disappointed that the council tabled the bond ordinance after listening to the truck route study presented by Lt. Kevin Murtagh, which pointed out the most dangerous section of the truck route is the very intersection the improvements would have addressed. Lt. Murtagh gave a full presentation at the agenda meeting, discussing the increase in accidents on the new

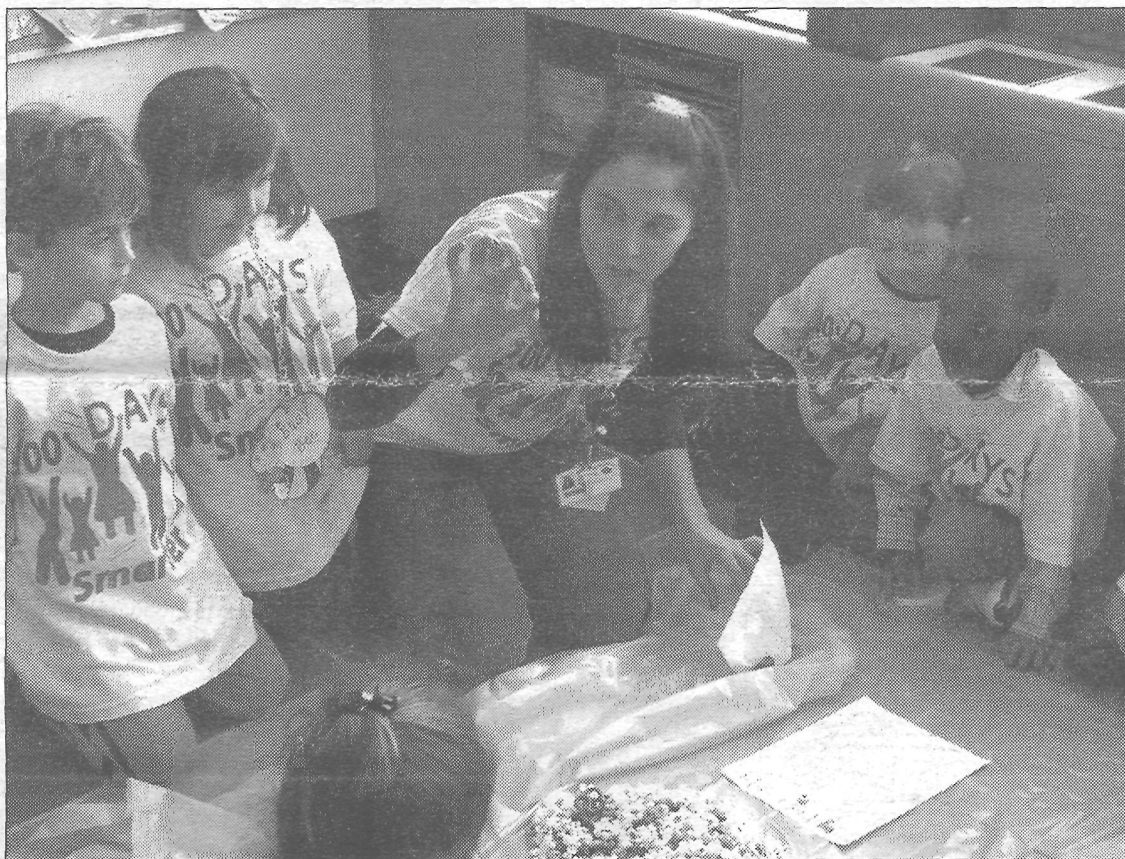
truck route.

When asked for his opinion, Lt. Murtagh said that allowing trucks back on Hamilton Boulevard would not pose a risk to walking children since there are already four crossing guards around the school. He said children

walked to school before the new truck route was established. The meeting was attended by two former and four present school board members, none of whom expressed any concerns about trucks traveling in the Roosevelt School area.

No decision was made as to when or if trucks will be allowed back on Hamilton Boulevard, but members of the Traffic Safety Commission voted unanimously at their last meeting to recommend trucks return to Hamilton Boulevard.

100th Day of School Marks Milestone For Kennedy School Teacher, Students



Kennedy School kindergarten teacher Janine Turrise celebrates 100 days of school and her teaching career.

By Jane Dornick

Kennedy Elementary School kindergarten teacher Janine Turrise's "100th day of school" celebration was twice as special this year for her

because it was also the 100th day of her teaching career. Turrise is a recent graduate of The College of New Jersey and began teaching in her hometown at Kennedy in September.

To celebrate the 100th day of

school, students were asked to bring in 100 pieces of a snack, such as cereal or pretzels as part of a math lesson. Turrise chose to have her classes each place their snacks on a large tablecloth counting by one-hundreds. The total amount of individual pieces came to 2,200 and the youngsters picked up the tablecloth to mix them all together. Everyone was given a cup of snacks, which led to another math lesson; counting how many of each snack they received. The best part for students was when they were finished with their lesson and were able to eat what they learned.

Buttiglieri Resigns, Vargo Announces Retirement

Municipal Clerk Vinnie Buttiglieri submitted his resignation as of March 5 at Tuesday night's agenda session. The council will officially accept his resignation at Monday's regular

council meeting.

It was also announced that Court Administrator Pat Vargo plans to retire as of March 28.

See next week's *Observer* for story.

Filing Deadline for Board of Education Candidacy is Monday

The deadline for filing nominating petitions to run for positions on the South Plainfield Board of Education is Monday, Feb. 25 at 4 p.m. The election is scheduled for Tuesday, April 15.

Prospective candidates can obtain a "School Board Candidate Kit" at the administration building, 125 Jackson Ave., between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily.

Published by the New Jersey School Boards Association, the School Board

Candidate Kit includes the nominating petition and information about legal qualifications for school board candidacy and the role of the school board member. Information about the New Jersey School Ethics Act, important dates in the school election process, and briefing sessions for school board candidates are also included in the kit.

"School board membership is a meaningful way to make a contribution

Are you a civic-minded resident concerned about the education of our children? Consider becoming a BOE member. Get your candidacy kit at the BOE office and submit your application by Monday, Feb. 25.

to your community and its schools," said Kevin E. Ciak, NJSBA president. "The most important attribute a candidate can bring to office is a sincere interest in the community, its children and their education."

Up Next....

District 12 Wrestling Tournament

► South Plainfield High School, Friday, Feb. 22. Preliminaries and Quarterfinals at 5:30 p.m. Semifinals, Saturday, Feb. 23, 11 a.m. Consolation Finals, 3 p.m. Championship Finals, 5 p.m.

Magic/Illusion Show

► Fundraiser for Summer Drama Workshop on Sunday, Feb. 24. SPSHS Auditorium, 2 p.m. (See page 4.)

Regular Council Meeting

► Monday, Feb. 25. Council chambers, 7 p.m.

Special Housing and Community Block Grant Meeting

► Monday, Feb. 25, Council chambers, 8 p.m.

Citizens' Campaign Seminar

► Wednesday, Feb. 27 seminar at the senior center at 7 p.m.

Alternate Truck Route Ad Hoc Committee Mtg.

► Thursday, Feb. 28 meeting, senior center, 7 p.m.

Housing and Community Development Block Grant Meeting Feb. 25, 8 p.m.

A public hearing for the 2008 Housing and Community Development Block Grant has been scheduled for Monday, Feb. 25 at 8 p.m. in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

The purpose of this hearing is to introduce projects being considered for inclusion in the 2008 Housing and Community Development Block Grant application. Public input on this project as well as input on any other projects will be entertained by the Governing Body at this time.

Further questions may be addressed to Council President Robert Bengivenga, the council's representative to the Housing and Community Development Agency or Glenn Cullen, Administrator/CFO at (908) 226-7602 or E-mail at gcullen@southplainfieldnj.com



Council meetings air on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. (Check community bulletin board for last minute time changes.)

The January 16 BOE Public Meeting will air on Comcast Channel 74 Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. until the next public meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 20.

Comcast will air two hours of a meeting. To purchase a copy of a complete Borough Council or BOE meeting, contact the Observer.

council meeting

Meets twice a month on Mondays, except as noted.* All meetings begin at 7 p.m. Borough Hall Council Chambers • Questions? 908-226-7605.

Agenda Meeting	Public Meeting
Monday, March 3	Monday, February 25
Monday, March 17	Monday, March 10
Monday, March 31	Monday, March 24
Monday, April 14	Monday, April 7
	Monday, April 21

All meetings of the Governing Body are held in accordance with New Jersey Open Public Meetings Act (NJSA 10:4-6 et seq) in the Council Chambers at 2480 Plainfield Avenue.

planning board

Meets second and fourth Tuesday of the month, *except where noted. Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
Feb. 26*, March 11, March 25, April 8, April 22, May 13, June 10, June 24, July 8, July 22, Sept. 9, Sept. 23, Oct. 7, Oct. 21, Nov 18*, Dec. 9*.

zoning board of adjustment

Meets second and fourth Thursday of the month, *except where noted. Borough Hall Council Chambers, 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7641
February 28, March 13 and 27, April 10 and 24, May 8 and 22, June 12 and 26, July 10 and 24, August 14 and 28, September 11 and 25, October 9 and 23, November 30*, December 11*.

board of education meetings

Roosevelt Administration Gymnasium on Jackson Ave. unless otherwise noted
Committee of the Whole, Wednesdays 7 p.m. March 12, April 2
Regular Meeting Wednesdays 8 p.m. Feb. 20, March 19 and April 19.

recreation commission

Meets once a month on the second Tuesday of the month, except July and August
PAL Building, Maple Ave. 7 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7716

taxpayers advisory group

The Taxpayers Advisory Group (TAG) meets the fourth Tuesday of every month at Borough Hall, 2480 Plainfield Ave. at 7 p.m. Questions? 908-769-0786.

site plans sub-committee

Meets once a month on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m.
February 19, March 18, April 5, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18, December 16.

environmental commission

Meets once a month (second Wednesday)
Borough Hall Conference Room, 8 p.m. • Questions? 908-226-7621
March 12, April 9, May 14, June 11, July 9, August 13, September 10, October 8, November 12, December 10 and January 14.

business advisory group

Meets once a month (first Wednesday)
Borough Hall Council Chambers, 5 p.m. • Questions? 908-757-8100

traffic safety advisory commission

Meets on the fourth Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Conference Room, Borough Hall

board of education curriculum/technology meetings

Meets once a month on Mondays at 8 p.m. in the 2nd floor conference room at Roosevelt Administration Building on Jackson Ave.

IN MY OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

To the Residents of East Crescent Parkway:

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the wonderful families (past and present) of East Crescent Parkway.

The outpouring of your support not only during these very difficult days, but throughout the 10 years of my mother's illness, have proven to us that compassion, family value, respect of others and selfless giving still exists in a world that witnesses otherwise. Whether it was spending time visiting with Betty, sending her photos of your children to let her know her presence was not forgotten, baking her special treats or ensuring her care so that we could have a few days of much needed rest, I never had to ask because you simply just did it.

For anyone who passes through this charming neighborhood, the outside view is a flurry of children playing in the street (please drive through carefully) or neighbors gathered on the lawn in circle or "breaking bread" at the family table in the driveway. And if you're lucky enough to be within the little community, you'd know that although it is comprised of several different homes, it is but of one solid family.

Thank you to all for your endless giving and for keeping Betty present within your hearts.

In addition, a sincere thank you to our many friends who were there for us and to Ricky at McCrisky-Gustafson Home For Funerals for your dedication to excellence in the care of our family.

**WITH SINCERE APPRECIATION,
THE FAMILY OF BETTY CESARO**

To the Editor:

As a very proud 1975 graduate of South Plainfield High School, and due to the support of my teachers and guidance staff, I was able to have a very fun-filled, educational and successful high school experience. Due to my efforts and their support, I graduated from SPHS with full honors and was able to attend New Jersey Institute of Technology, graduating in 1980 with a degree in architecture.

I am still successfully practicing as a registered architect today.

I'm sorry that Ms. Gray feels that SPHS feels "like a prison," in that you need a "yellow pass" to be in the hallways, or if you receive "office detention" if you're late. Does Ms. Gray think it was any different back in the 1970's at SPHS? During my tenure at NJIT, if you were "a minute" late for class, you were not admitted. If you were late three times during a semester, you automatically failed that class.

I doubt very seriously that only one of four teachers have had a positive influence upon Ms. Gray. I would also think that she should be concentrating her efforts on her studies, not on the school system's administrative issues. Also, perhaps Ms. Gray should focus on the positive, instead of badmouthing "the best kept secret in Middlesex County."

As the very proud son of a retired teacher who taught for many years within the South Plainfield School district, I know first-hand the dedication and hard work it takes to be an educational professional, long after the car leaves the parking lot.

I also pity Ms. Gray, in that she's looking for freedom and respect, in that the freedom and respect have always been available, not necessarily as rights, but as deserved, well-earned reciprocal privileges.

The freedom and respect I hold for having the opportunity of attending South Plainfield High School are everlasting. I am still enjoying the friendships and reaping the benefits. I only hope that Ms. Gray and her peers might be able to do the same.

**SINCERELY,
HAROLD T. EVEGAN**

To the Editor:

We received our tax bills for the first and second quarter of 2008. There were tax increases and the responsibility for these increases was put at the doorstep of the Republican Majority that took control on January 5, 2008.

The municipal budget covers the fiscal year period July 1, 2007 to June

Submit Letters to the Editor:

Please be advised that the Observer does not publish anonymous letters.

Letters may be submitted to the Observer, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax 908-668-8819 or by email: spobserver@comcast.net. Deadline is Monday 5 p.m. Letters must be accompanied by a name and telephone number for verification. Please limit letters to no more than 200 words. We reserve the right to refuse a letter, to edit for clarity or length, and to limit the number of letters submitted on the same subject.

30, 2008. It is the budget of the then-Democratic majority and they should not be reluctant to accept the credit. But at the same time they must be held accountable and responsible for any budget shortcomings. This fiscal year budget was not approved until January 2008. That is six months beyond the effective date of the budget. Just look at the shortcomings in this budget. Sheet 10n of the budget projected income or receipts of \$1,344,115 from land sales. Through January 2008 there was still due approximately \$660,000 land sales proceeds which had not been received. In addition, there were tax refunds totaling approximately \$500,000 due to tax appeals, yet not one dollar was budgeted or allocated to lower these payments. This resulted in a budget shortfall of \$1,100,000. Since we are already in the eighth month for this budget expenses had to be lowered. In addition this 2007/2008 budget used \$2,814,000 of surplus, leaving a very small balance of surplus for the next budget. The new majority moved to cover the revenue gap of \$1,100,000 with a tax increase.

The other part of the increase is due to the practice over the years that resulted in your third and fourth quarter tax bills issued at a lower rate by coincidence just before the election. As a result any shortage in taxes was and is included in the first and second quarter tax bill for 2008. Just check your tax bills, the tax bill received covered the fiscal year shortage and the adjustment in the first and second quarters.

(Continued on page 10)

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SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES

We look forward to hearing from all of you and encourage you to send in your stories and photos. The South Plainfield Observer is your paper. Please let us know what you would like to see in it.

To get an article published in the South Plainfield Observer:

1. Type (double spaced) the article you wish published.
2. Mail, fax or drop it at: South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Department, 1110 Hamilton Blvd., Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080 or drop it in the box at Mohn's Flowers on Plainfield Ave., fax us at (908) 668-8819 or e-mail us at spobserver@comcast.net. Include your name, address, telephone number.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters may be submitted by mail to South Plainfield Observer, Editorial Dept., 1110 Hamilton Blvd. Suite 1B, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, by email: spobserver@comcast.net or fax 908-668-8819. Letters should not exceed 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for clarity or length. It is the editor's discretion to limit the number of letters submitted by one individual on the same subject. The opinions expressed in "Letters" do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the Observer. All letters must be submitted with name and phone number, for verification.

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We oppose the Governor's proposal to form a Public Benefit Corp. and float between \$38 to \$40 billion dollars of debt. This is a clever and devious attempt by the Governor to circumvent the State Supreme Court decision that any new debt should be subject to voter approval. His plan clearly violates the spirit of the law.

In addition, the repayment of this debt would approach \$100 billion dollars and cripple our economy and subject our citizens, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren to substantial cost increases just to survive over 75 years.

An independent agency would avoid legislative oversight and give freedom to act as the PBC sees fit in spite of the restraints the Governor says will be applied. If the legislature permits this to happen, the voters should hold all of them responsible, particularly at election time.

The Governor says he wants to reduce debt but just look at the cost. Our current debt is large but the interest rates are low compared to the Governor's proposal. Rates of interest are presently unknown. According to the record, we do have sufficient funds in place for the Transportation Trust Fund through 2011. The presentation by Mr. Humphrey's at a current budget hearing clearly demonstrated that the interest cost of the Governor's proposal makes no fiscal sense.

In a recent opinion poll on his proposal, 86% were opposed to it. A member of our Senior Forum presented alternatives at a Senate budget hearing. They included the following:

1. Cut Spending—In two years, the Governor's budget went from \$28.5 billion to \$33.5 billion, suggesting room for cuts. A recent survey revealed that Pennsylvania, a state twice the size of New Jersey, has 28% fewer employees. Yet in the last few years public payrolls have risen considerably. This makes it obvious that staffing cuts in New Jersey are possible. The public sector should participate and make sacrifices just as seniors and individuals, who are not on the public payroll or receiving very generous pensions and free healthcare. Seniors on Social Security pay Medicare Part B premiums from the state healthcare retirees program. Look at public pensions. Employees engaged in security or safety jobs can receive pensions after 25 years, at any age receiving 65% of pay and free healthcare for life. Individuals are retiring at ages 44 and 45

FROM THE Senior Men's

FORUM

By Richard Petrone,
Secretary

changes in pensions and benefits in the recent labor negotiations. What has he done? Nothing! No changes in pensions and benefits, but increased salaries 13.4% over four years while the state reflects budget shortfalls!

2. Consider an increase in the fuel tax of 10 to 15 cents a gallon and use this to replenish the Transportation Trust Fund. Records show the trust fund has sufficient monies to 2011.

3. Increase tolls on the Garden State Parkway 50 to 75 cents and dedicate the proceeds to reducing debt. Charge more for those who pay tolls in cash since to do so requires more labor. Contrast this with the Governor's planned toll increases of 50% in 2010, 2014, 2018 and 2022. Those increases would include inflation adjustments and after 2022, tolls would increase every few years until 2085 to reflect inflation.

4. A one-time surcharge in the income tax between \$75 to \$350 based on income to be applied for one to two years and dedicate proceeds to reducing debt.

5. Do not issue any more debt, not one cent, without voter approval.

6. Eliminate a portion of the Homestead rebate and apply funds to changing school funding formula.

7. Combine these issues with a thorough review of the salaries and benefits, organizational structure and staffing at the GSP and NJ Turnpike.

The above seems like tough medicine, but in the long run it is cheaper and more cost effective than borrowing under the Governor's plan for 75 years. More importantly this doesn't violate the Supreme Court decision on borrowing, gives the legislature oversight control and we the people have someone to hold responsible for our future, not some independent group (PBC) who do not report to the legislature or more importantly, are held accountable to the people.

A recent article in the *Star Ledger* stated that the Governor has already spent \$7.2 million in legal fees for his proposals. It is clear that under the Governor's proposal the winners are the bond council, the attorneys and those who will market the debt.

We believe our package could be sold easier than the Governor's.

and teachers and state employees at age 55 after 25 years at 60% pay. Yet those covered by Social Security must wait until age 65 to receive benefits. The Governor said he would negotiate

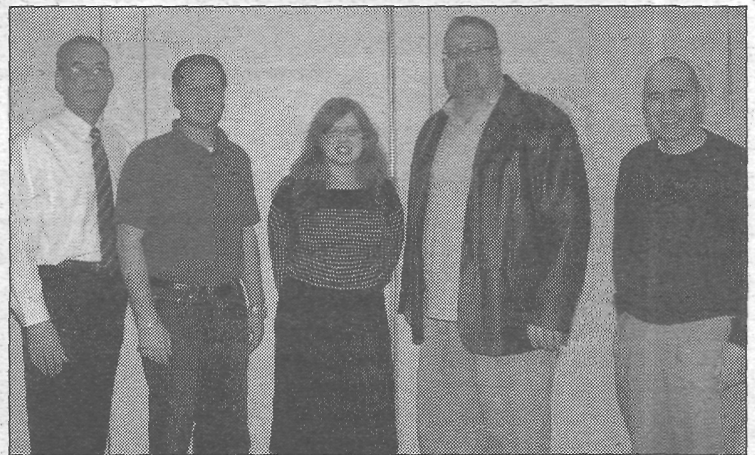
Citizens' Campaign Seminars Help Educate Residents on Local Government

The South Plainfield Business Association in conjunction with the *South Plainfield Observer* sponsored the second in five seminars on February 6. The seminars teach citizens how to understand local government and empower them to get more involved. Along with several residents, Councilmen Rob Bengivenga and Ray Rusnak and Board of Education members Bob Jones and Debbie Boyle attended. They joined in the discussions, answered questions and added information on how South Plainfield government works.

The evening's speaker was Heather Taylor, communications director at the Citizens' Campaign. This seminar centered on teaching the basics of local government. The next three seminars go into more detail on the workings of local government.

Taylor explained that the municipal government is responsible for striking a budget, public safety and local development. The school board is responsible for providing our children with a quality education, curriculum, the hiring of teachers and developing a school budget.

Taylor also explained the responsibilities of the Board of Adjustment



(L to R) Councilman Ray Rusnak, Council President Rob Bengivenga, Citizens' Campaign Communications Director Heather Taylor, Jack Pedersen, former president of the South Plainfield Business Association, and Board of Education member Bob Jones at the seminar held earlier this month.

and the Planning Board and what they can and cannot do. She also talked about political parties and how they affect the running of local government, the Open Public Records Act (OPERA), citizens legislation and how citizens can effectively make suggestions and changes. There was an informative question and answer session after the presentation.

Those attending learned that ordinary citizens with limited time and funds can gain real political and governmental power. The Citizens' Campaign was formed to empower people to get involved in their local government, by giving people the legal tools and political skills that make a difference.

The next seminar will be held on Wednesday, Feb 27 at 7 p.m. at the senior center. The topic for the evening will be "Learn Effective Techniques to Advocate for Issues Before Your Local Government." The seminars are free. Come out and bring a friend and start to get involved in your local government.

Democrats Seeking Candidates For Borough Council

The South Plainfield Democratic Organization is seeking candidates for two positions on the Borough Council to be elected this November. Anyone interested in screening to run on the Democratic slate should forward their resume to P.O. Box 422, South Plainfield, N.J. 07080.

Assemblyman Patrick Diegnan, who is the municipal chair, expressed the enthusiasm of the local Democratic

organization about this upcoming election. "We had almost as many Democrats vote in the presidential primary this year as voted in last year's general election. There is a nationwide consensus that this November offers an opportunity to reverse the bankrupt policies of the Republican Party led by President George W. Bush. In South Plainfield, this November offers an opportunity for fresh new leadership that is only interested with serving the citizens of our great Borough."

All resumes must be received no later than March 14. If anyone has any questions, contact Assemblyman Diegnan at (908) 753-7200.

Class of '72, '73, '74 Holding Joint Reunion

Do you remember split sessions in South Plainfield High School? If you do, there's a good chance that we are looking for you!

The South Plainfield High School combined classes of 1972, 1973 and 1974 will hold their 35th reunion on March 8 at 7 p.m. at the Clarion Hotel in Edison. The cost of the reunion is \$75 per person and includes dinner, DJ and cocktail hour. If interested in attending, send an E-mail to sphsclass1973@yahoo.com or call (908) 209-9314. An invitation will be returned to you via E-mail. No tickets will be available at the door. Time is running out! Please call or E-mail today!

Brenda Vallecilla, Esq.

Attorney at Law

• 100 Front Street, South Plainfield •

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2007-08

JUNIOR JOURNALIST



Charlie and Debbie Kurland deliver dinner to Junior Journalist winner Olivia George, her mom Tina, dad Michael and sister Rebecca.

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Lenten Fish Dinners at Sacred Heart

February 22, 29
March 7 & 14

South Plainfield Knights of Columbus and Sacred Heart Church are sponsoring fish dinners during Lent on Friday, Feb. 22, 29, and on March 7 and 14. Dinners are served in Sacred Heart cafeteria on South Plainfield Avenue, 5 to 7 p.m. Menu features fillet of fish (fried, broiled, parmesan), cheese ravioli, manicotti, linguini, pizza, garden salad, rice pilaf, French fries, macaroni and cheese, cole slaw, coffee, tea or cold drink and dessert.

For info, call (908) 756-0633, ext. 10

Pancake Breakfast

February 24

The South Plainfield Elks #2298, in conjunction with the South Plainfield Girl Scout community, will host a pancake breakfast on Sunday, Feb. 24 from 8 a.m. to noon. Menu features pancakes, eggs, French toast, bacon, sausage, home fries, toast, juice and coffee. Price is \$6-adults, \$5-seniors, \$4-children 3-12; under two are free. The Elks lodge is located at 1254 New Market Ave. For information, call (908) 668-9750.

SDW Fundraiser Magic/Illusion Show

February 24

On Sunday, Feb. 24 at 2 p.m. the "Art of Imagination" will be presented in the SPHS auditorium. All ticket

What's
happening at the
South Plainfield

SENIOR CENTER

FEBRUARY

MONDAY

TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

THURSDAY

FRIDAY

UPCOMING
EVENTS

Learn Effective Techniques to Advocate For Issues
Before Your Local Government—February 27 at 7 p.m.

Alternate Truck Route Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
Thursday, February 28 at 7 p.m.

Crocheting
9:30am-11:30am
Yoga 10:30-11:30am
Art Class 11:30am
AARP Meeting 12:30pm

25

Bingo 10am-2pm
Ladies Social
Group 10am

26

Aerobics 8:45 am
Computer 10 am
11:30am, 1pm
Crocheting 1pm
Tai Chi 2pm

27

Pathmark
Shopping 9am
Crafts Class 10am
Computer Class 10am
11:30am, 1pm
Exercise Class 1:15pm

28

Bingo
10am-2pm

29

TO SIGN UP FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE SENIOR CITIZEN'S CENTER, VISIT THE CENTER.

sales support South Plainfield Summer Drama Workshop (SDW). Doors open at 1:30 p.m. Purchase tickets at the *Observer* office, 1110 Hamilton Blvd. or at Jay Bee Screen Printing on New Market Avenue.

For additional information or to purchase tickets, contact (908) 561-5255 or info@spsdw.com.

AARP Meeting

February 25

AARP #4144 will meet at the senior center on Maple Avenue on Monday, Feb. 25 at 12:30 p.m. Speaker will be Shade Lee, who served as a Tuskegee Airman during WWII.

IRS and AARP trained tax aides are available Monday and Thursday until April 14 from 9 a.m. to noon at the senior center. Priority will be given to those age 60 and above.

Needlecrafters meet Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m. at the senior center. Call Georgie at (732) 968-3128. They are currently knitting 130 lap robes for the Highlands, premie hats for DYFS and Muhlenberg Hospital. Wool yarn donations and finished projects are welcome. Refreshments will be served. New members and guests welcome.

For more information contact Judy Hannah at (908) 769-6553.

SPHS PTA Meeting

February 26

The SPHS PTA meeting will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 26 in the teacher's cafeteria at 7 p.m. This is the last meeting before the Project Graduation auction. If you are interested in helping with set-up or transporting prizes to the high school, try to attend this meeting. If unable to attend, but still want to help, contact Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461.

Anyone with solicitation sheets, bring the updated sheets to the meeting along with any donations you have received. If you are unable to attend, contact Sharon Miller before the meeting with your solicitation information.

Empowering the People Seminar

February 27

Do you want a say in the decisions that affect your life? Learn effective techniques to advocate for issues before our local government at the second of four seminars presented by the Citizens' Campaign on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 7 p.m. at the senior center. The seminar is sponsored by the South Plainfield Business Association and the *South Plainfield Observer*. Seminar is free. Refreshments will be served.

Eagles Football and Cheer Registration

March 1

The South Plainfield Eagles Football and Cheer registration for the 2008 season will be held Saturday, March 1, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Eagles fieldhouse on Kenneth Avenue. Registration is for boys and girls ages five to 13 (must be five by July 31, 2008). Any questions, call Kevin or Kelly Dunn at (908) 668-5080.

Trip to Mary Poppins

March 2

The Recreation Department still has tickets for Mary Poppins. The show is Sunday, March 2. Bus leaves the PAL at 3 p.m. for the 6:30 p.m. show. Purchase tickets at the PAL Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tickets are \$100.

Columbiettes Easter Bunny Brunch

March 2

The South Plainfield Columbiettes will host their annual Easter Bunny Brunch on Sunday, March 2 in the Sacred Heart cafeteria. Doors open at 10:30 a.m.

Brunch consists of eggs, pancakes, French toast, ham, assorted breakfast cakes and more. There will be games

and prizes and the Easter Bunny will give out baskets to the children.

Cost is \$10 per person. Reservations can be made by calling Kathy at (908) 756-3772.

Project Graduation Auction/Raffle

March 8

The SPHS PTA will hold their annual auction/raffle on Saturday, March 8 from 6 to 11 p.m. in the school gym. All proceeds go towards Project Graduation for the class of 2008.

Tickets can be purchased by contacting Pat Fabino at (908) 757-6843. This event has sold out in past years, so get your tickets early.

American Legion St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance

March 8

The American Legion Chaumont Post 243 will host a St. Patrick's Day dinner/dance on Saturday, March 8 from 6 to 11 p.m. It will be an evening of fun, food and entertainment, featuring DJ and Piper. Tickets are \$15 per person. Children under 12 are half-price. Proceeds benefit the S.A.L. Squadron 243 scholarship fund.

For information, call (908) 668-9414.

— Out of Town —

Ukrainian Egg Decorating

February 23

The Folklife Program for New Jersey will present Pysanky, a traditional Ukrainian egg-decorating workshop with Master Artist Olga Kobryn on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 10 a.m. to noon or 1 to 3 p.m. Pre-registration required as well as payment of \$8 for materials. Hand-deliver or mail to the Commission's Office, 703 Jersey Ave., New Brunswick, N.J. 08901.

For more information, please call (732) 745-4489.

Backyard Birding

February 23

Come meet Holly Hoffman from Lyric and learn how to attract and keep wild birds right in your backyard on Saturday, Feb. 23 from 1 to 3 p.m. at Parker Gardens, 1325 Terrill Rd. in Scotch Plains.

For more information, call (908) 322-5555 or visit our Web site at www.parkergardens.com.

"Freeze Frame" Photography Exhibit

February 24

The Edison Arts Society will hold "Freeze Frame," a photography exhibit for members only, on Sunday, Feb. 24 from 3 to 5 p.m. at Middlesex County College. Call (908) 753-2787.

Registration for Learning for Life

February 25

Registration for the 10-week, 74th Spring Term of Learning for Life will be held at the United Presbyterian Church, 525 East Front St. in Plainfield on Monday, Feb. 25 from 9:30 to 11 a.m. The first session of the term will occur on March 3. Registration fee is \$15.

For more information call (908) 756-2666.

(Continued on next page)

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Seminar #2 – February 27, 7 p.m. South Plainfield Senior Center

Learn Effective Techniques to Advocate for Issues Before Your Local Government

Citizens can be a catalyst for change, if they have the "know how." This course will teach about the four main "Power Centers" within your community, and how to effectively navigate within to become a part of the decision-making process in your town and beyond.

Coming Up...

- March 5 – Leadership—Path to Appointed Power Forum
- March 26—Path to Political Power

The Academy for Citizen Empowerment (ACE) is the teaching arm of the Citizens' Campaign. ACE was founded on the principle that civic education can be the touchstone which will assist a civic renewal and which will help transform our cities and communities into examples of enlightened civic involvement.

Our nation's population is increasingly more apathetic and less engaged in the public sphere today than at any point in recent history. Civic and political participation is plummeting at unprecedented rates with severe repercussions for our quality of life and that of our children. We're in a "Crisis of Civic & Political Engagement." The American public is more educated and has greater access to information than at any point in history; yet, since the mid-60s, Americans have become roughly 25 percent less likely to vote, roughly 35 percent less likely to attend public meetings (both partisan and non-partisan) and roughly 40 percent less engaged in party politics and indeed in political and civic organizations of all sorts. In short, we remain reasonably well-informed spectators of public affairs, but few actually partake in the game.

Join us for the second in
a series of four free
seminars on Wednesday,
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(Continued from previous page)

Depression/Bipolar Support Group

February 27

The Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance will hold their monthly educational meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at 7:45 p.m. at Morristown Unitarian Fellowship in Morristown. The public is cordially invited. Bring questions!

For information, call (973) 994-1143 or the New Jersey Self-Help Group Clearinghouse at (800) 367-6274.

Mick Moloney and Friends Return

February 27

Middlesex County Cultural Heritage Commission welcomes the return of musician and vocalist Mick Moloney for the 14th year at 8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27 at North Brunswick High School. He will be joined by a number of musicians playing instruments like the fiddle, guitar and concertina, for a truly lively and spirited evening of soul-rousing music, droll stories and spirited dance.

For more information, contact the Commission at (732) 745-4489.

St. Helena Basket Bingo/Raffle Night

February 29

Come out for an evening of fun! St. Helena's HSA is hosting a Longaberger Basket Bingo and Raffle night on Friday, Feb. 29. Doors open at 6 p.m.; bingo starts at 7:30 p.m. Admission is \$15.

For tickets, call Karen Staggard (732) 283-8460.

NAMI Meeting

March 3

NAMI Middlesex, an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness will hold a membership meeting and speaker series on Monday, March 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. at the University Behavioral HealthCare, 671 Hoes Lane in Piscataway. Topic is 'Navigating the School System and the Children's Mental Health System Program.'

For information call (732) 235-6184

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On January 22 Cub Scout Pack 224, Den 8, visited Goodyear Gemini Service Center on Oak Tree Avenue in South Plainfield to learn what it's like to fix cars. The boys received a demonstration on how to safely use an air gun, how to mount a tire on a rim, balance a tire on a rim, and how to change the oil in a car. The trip was part of the Cub Scout's "go to" theme month celebration. January's theme was transportation. Back row (L-R): Den Leader Tom Timmerman, Goodyear Technician Cliff Perrino, Goodyear Sales Manager Phil DeGennaro and Den Leader Mike Billian. Front row (L-R): Scouts Liam Glynn, Markel Scott, John Timmerman, Sam Wolak, Divon Pender, Shawn Callanan and Tyler Billian.

Scouting in South Plainfield

Brownies Get Lesson on Health And Safety at "Try-It" Day

Over 200 Brownie Girl Scouts from throughout the Girl Scouts of Washington Rock's 25-community jurisdiction descended upon the First Presbyterian Church for Brownie Health and Safety "Try-It" Day on February 2. The event was organized and executed by the council's program department with assistance from Girl Scout troops and individuals, as well as experts in their respective fields who generously parted with their time to make the day a rousing success.

Brownies in attendance came away with a pair of "Try-Its"—Safety Sense and Eat Right, Stay Healthy. The Safety Sense "Try-It" featured presentations by Sue Driscoll of Children's

Specialized Hospital, Laurie Stone of the Red Cross and Lt. Robert Eichhorn of the Roselle Fire Department. The Eat Right, Stay Healthy "Try-It" entailed learning about the different food groups as well as making paper pizzas and much more. All in attendance had a great time while learning how to stay safe and eat right in a relaxed and supportive environment.

Founded in 1957, GSWRC proudly delivers the optimal Girl Scout experience to over 11,000 girls and adults.

For more information on our ongoing cookie sale, upcoming summer day and resident camps and much more, visit www.westfieldnj.com/girlscouts or call (908) 232-3236.

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SPHS Music Boosters

MUSIC NOTES



Twenty lucky chorus and music experience students were afforded the opportunity to take a trip into New York City to the Metropolitan Opera on February 1. While there, they experienced something most of us will never have the chance to see—the final dress rehearsal of a professional opera company. The students watched as the members of the world renowned Metropolitan Opera put the finishing touches on "Carmen." Tracy Murray provides this unique opportunity to our students twice a year. This past fall, a group of students saw the company finalize preparations for "The Magic Flute." Trips like these, which help our students meet NJ Core Curriculum Standards, set our district apart from others in the area and are an important part of our music program.

The Jazz Ensemble began their competition season on February 8 at Edison High School, where they received a rating of excellent.

Our Silver Dreams Winter Guard began competition on February 9 at Bridgewater-Raritan. The team started the season off by receiving first place in our division. We encourage everyone to come to one of these local shows to see just how amazing our students are! Check the high school music department Web site for updates on times at www.spnet.k12.nj.us/HSDepartments/HSMusic/index.htm.

The Jazz Ensemble will perform on Friday, Feb. 29 at Scotch Plains-Fanwood High School and Friday, March 7 at South Brunswick High

School.

The Silver Dreams Winter Guard will perform on Saturday, Feb. 23 at JP Stevens High School in Edison and Saturday, March 8 at South Brunswick High School.

The mid-winter concert is planned for Thursday, Feb. 28 at 7 p.m. This will be a combined event with our entire music department. Come enjoy an evening of music by our talented students. Tickets are \$3 adults/\$2 students and senior citizens.

Refreshments will be available for sale during intermission. The following promotional items will also be available for sale: hot/cold mugs \$6; drawstring nylon bags \$10.

We're working on finalizing the details for our banquet on Friday, June 13. The banquet is for all students in the music department (and parents, too). More details coming, including cost per person. Student account funds can be used for this event; forms are outside Mr. Vroom's office.

If anyone is interested in leadership opportunities, please come to our next meeting. Many of our senior parents and executive board members will be leaving the Music Boosters in June and we need members to fill much needed positions. Remember, in order to vote in the Boosters' May elections, you must be a member and have attended three meetings. Membership is \$3 individual or \$5 family.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 5 at 7 p.m. in the chorus room—join us!

—Submitted by Sue Hageman and Pam Hussey

Lions Plan Annual Palm Sunday Breakfast

The South Plainfield Lions Club will hold their annual gourmet breakfast on Palm Sunday, March 16 at the SPHS cafeteria from 8 a.m. to noon. The menu includes pancakes, omelets to order, French toast, sausage, bacon and orange juice. Cost is \$6 per

person. Come support your local Lions Club. Monies raised are used by the South Plainfield Lions Club to assist local residents in need, Camp Marcella (camp for the blind), eye banks, seeing eye dogs and international eyeglass collections.

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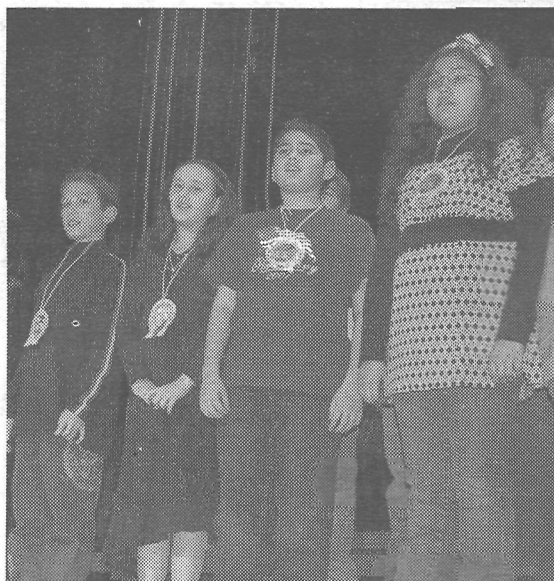
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Coaches Care Donates \$55K, Sets Outing Date

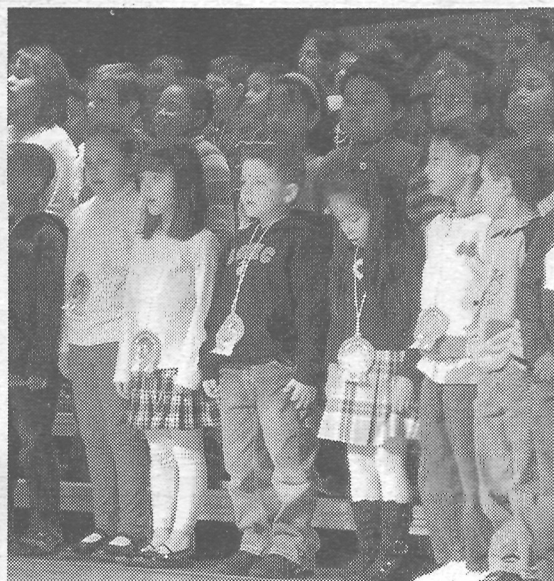
Buoyed by the strength of their fourth consecutive sold-out golf tournament, Coaches Care Inc., in their seventh year of existence, donated a total of \$55,000 to two local charities. A record total of \$35,000 was raised in their golf tournament held in June of 2007 and the remaining \$20,000 were donations encumbered in the name of the late Thomas McCreesh, Sr. One third of the monies raised from the golf tournament were donated to The Open Your Heart to Children Battling Cancer Foundation, Inc., while the remaining amount was given to The New Jersey Children's Neurological Center (CNC) at JFK Medical Center. The CNC was also the recipient of the money raised in memory of McCreesh.

The institute is utilizing all of their monies received to purchase a machine that would not only help treat children with neurological disorders, but also assist in the early detection of them. The CNC is the regions first and only program with pediatric neurology, neurosurgery and rehabilitation under one umbrella, and it has the largest radiodiagnostic center for brain tumors in the state. The trustees were fortunate enough to meet one of the children who have received the positive effects of the CNC which helped lend great credibility to their charity.

The officers and trustees of Coaches Care have set a date of June 14 at Heron Glen Golf Course for their fifth annual golf tournament. If you are interested in participating in the tournament or being a tournament sponsor you may call (908) 755-8468, or contact any of the following people: Tony Cassano, Bill DeNitzio, Keith Heckel, Thom Lanza, Tom McCreesh, Guy Moretti, Ted Tucker or Kurt Ullom.



Students entertain parents with musical performances at Roosevelt School.



Irish dancer, Bridget Simpson

Roosevelt Celebrates Diversity at Annual Multicultural Event

By Patricia Abbott

Roosevelt Elementary School held their twelfth annual multicultural celebration in late January. Each grade studied a different country throughout the month. The school hallways were filled with their artwork.

Music specialist Sharon Perez commented, "We look forward to the multicultural program every year be-

cause it is a school-wide endeavor. It's a working lesson in cooperation and it gives all of the students the opportunity to share what they have learned through the displays of their projects and musical performance."

Student council members offered a brief narrative before each act. Two performances were offered. All the students participated in a morning concert that featured singing, dance, sign-

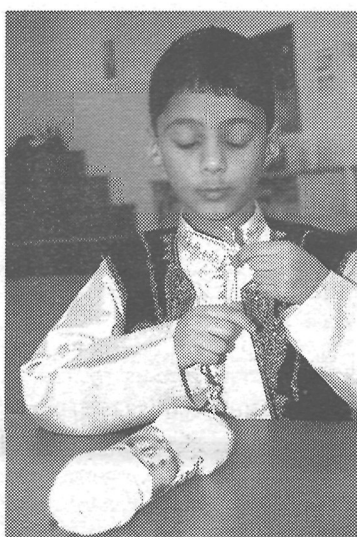
ing and instruments.

The evening concert was performed by grades three and four and was chaired by art teacher Glenda Posey. Highlights of the event were Irish dance students Bridget and Kelly Simpson, dances from around the world and a song that was sung as well as signed.

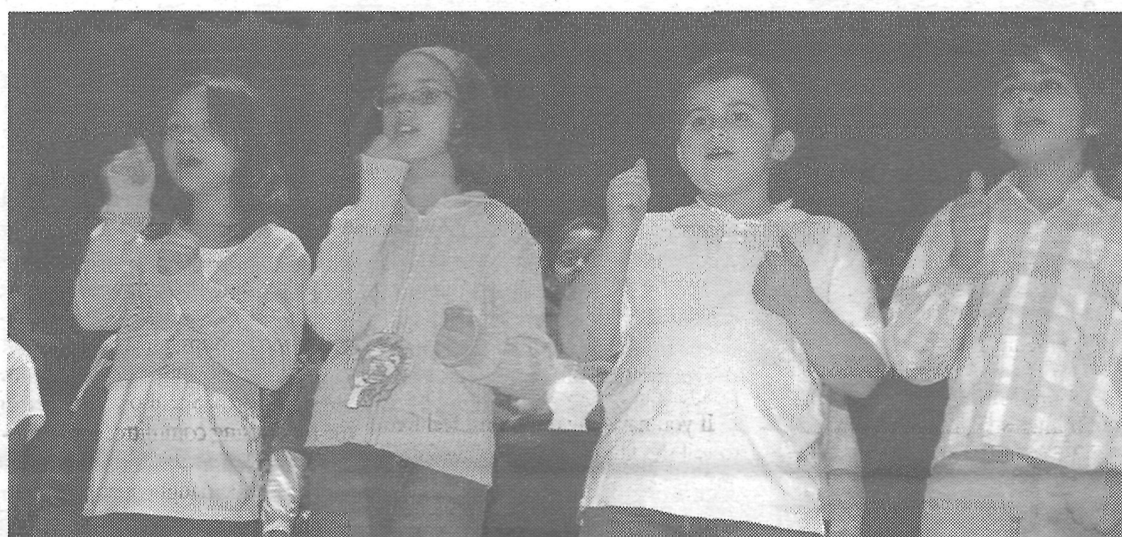
After the close of the performances, parents and students enjoyed refresh-

ments and then visited various classrooms to make crafts including origami, fish kites, worry dolls and jewelry or to view displays set up by parents.

Posey, art specialist and event chairperson, commented, "The multicultural program was a huge success as usual! I personally enjoyed watching the excitement in the children's eyes and seeing them enjoy performing and making the crafts."



Second grader, Siddarth Thupil



Third graders Helen Nguyen, Ashli Bell, Justin Spry and Samardhi Jeedigunta

Adult School Offers Tennis Lessons, Dog Obedience, Trips Galore!

Space is available in the following South Plainfield Adult School classes:

Tennis lessons beginning on Saturday, March 15. Classes are held in the morning for adults, and the afternoon for children grades two through 12.

Dog obedience classes for large and small dogs start on Tuesday, March 18 and Thursday, March 20

in the evening

Tickets are available for the Philadelphia Flower Show on Sunday, March 2. Price is \$60.

In the spring the South Plainfield Adult School is continuing their series of very popular tours of New York City. On Saturday, April 19, there will be a trip into New York City to the Secret Gardens of New

York. We will tour the Shakespeare Garden, an enchanting hideaway which is a little known treasure in Central Park. We will also tour the Conservatory Garden. Lunch on your own in Morningside Heights. On Saturday, June 7, there will be a walking tour (minimal amount of walking) of The Villages and Chelsea highlights. This trip highlights his-

toric sites of the East Village, Greenwich Village and Chelsea. In the afternoon we tour Chelsea Market and have lunch on your own in Greenwich Village. Bring your camera and wear comfortable walking shoes! Our licensed NYC guide will be Tony Grifa.

All buses leave from South Plainfield High School. To sign-up for any

of these trips or for additional information on these and many other trips that are offered to all area residents, please call the Adult School at (908) 754-4620, ext. 213.

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From the South Plainfield Library

Bookmarks

By Chris Grippio

The Grammy Awards were presented in a live telecast on Sunday, Feb. 10. The South Plainfield Library owns a number of CDs by both nominees and presenters. A short list includes Alicia Keys' "Alicia Keys Unplugged" and "As I Am," Foo Fighters' "One by One" and "Foo Fighters," Amy Winehouse's "Back to Black" and "Frank," Carrie Underwood's "Some Hearts" and "Carnival Ride," Rihanna's "Good Girl Gone Bad" and many more by Maroon 5, Vince Gill, Kanye West, Brad Paisley, etc. We also have the compilations for various years of Grammy nominated songs and performers. So if you want to hear what everyone is talking about, stop by and take out a few CDs.

Also remember to mark your calendar for Sunday, March 16 at 2 p.m. Certified Senior Advisor Tony Bunn will present his program, "9 Tips to Avoid Financial Fraud." Financial fraud has become a major problem in our society and anyone can fall victim. With the cost of living rising and fixed incomes stagnant, the appeal of so-

called "boiler rooms" financial transactions can be very appealing. However, they are very dangerous and along with other financial scams (letters telling you that you are a winner in a foreign lottery, letters asking for your help in getting money into the United States or out of a foreign country, and stocks that are not worth the paper they are printed on) are just a few of the ways that people committing financial fraud are trying to separate you from your money. So come learn from Bunn how to keep from being a victim of fraud.

We have received a wide variety of new movies, including comedies, "Balls of Fury," "Game Plan," "Simpsons: the Movie," "Good Luck Chuck" and more. Dramas include "The Assassination of Jesse James by the Coward Robert Ford," "The Brave One" (with Jodie Foster), "Elizabeth: the Golden Age," "3:10 to Yuma" and others. We have also received the sixth season of "24," the third season of "Mission Impossible," the second season of "One Tree Hill," and the fourth season of "The Wire," etc. Please remember we also have circuit DVDs. We only have them for two months (the current group will be here until the end of March). Often you can find items that we don't have in our collection, so stop in and take a look.

Miss Linda and Miss Mija are continuing their regular drop-in storytimes followed by a craft. For children ages 3+, the times are Tuesdays at 10:30 a.m., Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. and Thursdays at 1:15 p.m. Time for 2s & 3s is Wednesday and Thursday at 10:30 a.m. There is a Books & Babies program on Fridays at 10:30 a.m. You do not have to register for any of these programs and they are all free.

If you have any questions, feel free to call the library at (908) 754-7885 and speak to one of our helpful staff.

Picture of the Week

Submitted by Lou Mormile



Amanda Dolan rescued these wild baby rabbits from a hungry cat. When they were big enough to survive, she sadly released them into the nearby woods. (Due to a printing problem, last week's "Picture of the Week" was not legible; consequently we are reprinting it.)

southplainfieldpeople

Milestones

Katie Eder Named to Dean's List

Katie Eder, a 2007 graduate of South Plainfield High School, has been named to the Dean's List at Villanova University for the Fall 2007 semester.

Katie has achieved a GPA of 3.5 while taking all honors classes. She plans on majoring in English and then law.

She enjoys playing violin in Villanova's orchestra and is active with several service groups, especially one that goes into Philadelphia and works with school children. She also volunteers on the fundraising committee for her sorority.

Katie is the daughter of MaryAnn and John Eder.

HIGHLIGHTS

From South Plainfield High School PTA

2008 will mark the South Plainfield High School PTA's 20th year of providing graduating seniors with a Project Graduation celebration. To help support this important event the SPHS PTA is sponsoring the annual auction/raffle fundraiser on Saturday, March 8 from 7 to 11 p.m. (doors open at 6 p.m.) at the high school. All proceeds will go towards Project Graduation. Tickets are now on sale.

It's not too late to donate. Together we can make this event a success for graduating seniors with the help and support of SPHS families, especially senior class families, the South Plainfield community/educational organizations and our local businesses. Support this worthwhile cause by making a donation. Donations can be in the form of a gift card, a single gift item, a theme gift basket or a monetary donation.

Contact Sharon Miller at (908) 754-6461 if you wish to make a donation or to arrange for items to be picked up directly from your home or business.

Monetary donations can be mailed to South Plainfield High School, 200 Lake St., South Plainfield, N.J. 07080, Attn: SPHS PTA. Checks should be made payable to SPHS PTA-Project Graduation.

Donations must be received ASAP in order to be used for the auction.

All families, businesses and community/educational organizations will be acknowledged in our program for your generous contributions. The program will be finalized and printed in one week so it is important if you have previously pledged a donation that we receive it as quickly as possible.

Outside Business/Corporate Donations—Ask the business or corporation you work for if they will make a contribution, or if you know of someone who can obtain a donation from a business or corporation, please ask them for their help.

Auction Volunteers—We need help in the following areas: March 8—Set-up noon to 3 p.m.; clean-up 11 p.m. to midnight. We also need drivers to help move auction prizes from the homes where they are stored to the high school at 11:30 a.m. If you are interested in helping, please contact Sharon or come to the February 26 PTA meeting.

Auction Ticket Sales—For ticket information, contact Pat Fabino at (908) 757-6843.

Empty Wicker Baskets—We are in need of empty wicker baskets (in good condition). If you have any baskets, please contact Pat Fabino or Sharon.

PTA Meeting—February 26 at 7 p.m. in the SPHS teacher's cafeteria.

The Class of 2008 and the SPHS PTA sincerely appreciates your support.

AARP Seeks Volunteers

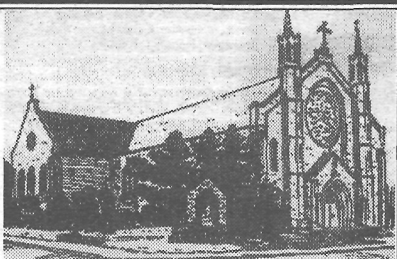
Chapter #4144 of AARP is recruiting retired or semi-retired persons to join their chapter and engage in community service activities. Volunteers must be a paid-up member of the national organization and be looking for meaningful volunteer work to do in their retirement. The group meets at South Plainfield Senior Center on the third Monday each month.

If interested, call Mary at (732) 752-3764. Don't call the senior center.

Sacred Heart Church

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Sacrament of Reconciliation

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Sports



2007 LBI President Cup Champions (L to R): Frank Cirigliano, Mike O'Brien, Ralph Fech, Mike Behr, Jack Kudrick, Bob Besser, Joe Sosnak, Charles Woodhull, Bill Schulte, Douglas Graham and Lenny Padula. Not pictured is Tom Casavant, because of a tight schedule and his commitment to the Senior Champions Tour.

Challengers Overtake the Champions at President Cup

The season ending three-day, 63-hole event was played at a trio of top notch courses located in South Jersey. Sea Oaks and Sand Barrens were the sites for the first two days while Harbor Pines in Egg Harbor Township hosted the individual match play competition.

The challengers overtook the field right from the first day of the tournament, displaying an awesome array of shot making and romping to a record 50 3/4-30 1/4 victory over the defending champions.

By Gary Lampasona

JUNIOR BASEBALL CLUB NOTES

SPJBC Accepting Scholarship Applications

The South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club is now accepting applications for college scholarships.

The applications can be picked up at the Guidance Department of the South Plainfield High School or by contacting the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club at (908) 754-2090.

The applicant must be a high school student this June, must be a South Plainfield resident, and must have participated in the South Plainfield Junior Baseball Club for a minimum of five years.

Please note that the filing deadline is April 1.

RECREATION WRESTLING Submitted by Joe Sacco

Wrestlers Win on Home Mat

The South Plainfield Wrestling Club hosted its 34th Annual Invitational Tournament this past weekend at the high school. Over 400 wrestlers from the tri-state area participated. Placing in the top six from South Plainfield were:

First Place: David Loniewski, Pee Wee 48 lbs.; Tommy Fierro, Pee Wee 51 lbs.; Jacob Painton, Bantam 53 lbs.; Ryan Walsh, Midget 67 lbs.; Christian Gonzalez, Midget 95 lbs.; Anthony Ashnault, Junior 75 lbs.; Kyle Brady, Junior 80 lbs.; Dylan Painton, Junior 85 lbs.; Corey Stasenko, Junior 115 lbs.; Troy Heilmann, Intermediate 90 lbs.; Christian Cooper, Intermediate HWT.

Second Place: Joseph Anesh, Pee Wee 45 lbs.; Sebastian Santos, Pee Wee 48 lbs.; Christopher Born, Pee Wee 54 lbs.; Joseph Sacco, Bantam 49 lbs.; Joey Heilmann, Bantam 53 lbs.; Alex Amato, Bantam 53 lbs.; Joey Penyak, Midget 64 lbs.; Danny Hedden, Midget 77 lbs.; Matt Hurst, Junior 105 lbs.; Jake Seider, Junior HWT; Tyler Hunt, Intermediate 100 lbs.; Scott Whalen, Intermediate 107 lbs.; Mike Molinaro, Intermediate 126; Anthony Torchia, Intermediate 145A lbs.; Dylan Dorey, Intermediate 145B lbs.

Third Place: Michael Marrero, Bantam 59 lbs.; Brendan Hedden, Bantam 62 lbs.; CJ Maszczak, Midget 81 lbs.; Raymond Jazikoff, Junior 85 lbs.; Robert Kolvites, Junior 90 lbs.; Antunee Adams, Junior 100 lbs.; Tyler Calderone, Junior HWT; Troy Davisson, Intermediate 75 lbs.; Frank Malecki, Intermediate HWT.

Fourth Place: Zachary Villares, Pee Wee 48 lbs.; Christian Weber, Pee Wee 51 lbs.; Dominic Faustini, Pee Wee 52 lbs.; Divon Pender, Pee Wee 54 lbs.; Kyle Bythell, Bantam 65 lbs.; Michael Clevenger, Bantam 73 lbs.; Jake Hoffman, Midget 61 lbs.; Will McLaughlin, Midget 70 lbs.; Joe Jakubik, Junior 80 lbs.

Fifth Place: Brandon Cangialosi, Pee Wee 42 lbs.; Jordan Hamberg, Pee Wee 42B lbs.; Harrison Anesh, Pee Wee 45 lbs.; Dion Pender, Midget 90 lbs.; Nick Graves, Junior 95 lbs.

Sixth Place: Dylan Kolvites, Pee Wee 42A lbs.; Sebastian Rohrer, Pee Wee 42B lbs.; Anthony Massaro, Pee Wee HWT; Michael Marrero, Bantam 56 lbs.; Kyle Davisson, Bantam 59 lbs.; Vinnie Savoca, Midget 55 lbs.; Vinnie Vetusch, Midget 67 lbs.; George Pittenger, Midget 73 lbs.; Dakota Pauls, Midget HWT.

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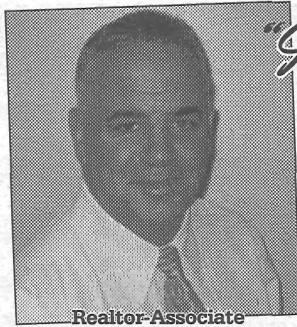
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Ponytail Softball Batters Box

By Nancy McMahon

The Parents Ponytail Association meetings are held the fourth Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is Tuesday, Feb. 26 and begins at 7:30 p.m. and takes place at the PAL. We will be discussing improvements to Pitt Field, continuous maintenance on the fields, the start-up of new committees and other topics of interest.

Upcoming dates to remember:

Coaches Clinic will be held on Saturday, March 15 at the PAL from 9 a.m. to noon.

Recreation season starts on Mon-

day, April 7. Recreation opening day is Saturday, April 12. Tag Day is Thursday, April 17, 18 and 19 (TBD). Traveling all-star tryouts will be held on Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m.-U10 Field C; Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m.-U12 Field B and Sunday, May 4 at 3 p.m.-U14 Field A.

We continue to encourage new members and fresh ideas. You can make a difference! We hope to see you all there! Remember to visit our website for detailed information at www.sponytail.com.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE TO ABSENT DEFENDANT

(L.S.) STATE OF NEW JERSEY TO: **Melissa J. Blake and Amanda Nelums**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND REQUIRED to serve upon GOLDBECK McCAFFERTY & McKEEVER, A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION, plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Suite 5000 - Mellon Independence Center, 701 Market Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106-1532, phone # (856) 858-3242, an answer to the Amended Complaint, filed in a civil action, in which 50 By 50 LLC is plaintiff, and Lemuel Muller and Melissa H. Muller, h/w and Vera Carter Hawkins, and Clara Harris and Rodney Harris are the defendant(s), pending in the Superior Court of New Jersey, Chancery Division, Middlesex County, and bearing Docket No. F-34731-07 within thirty-five (35) days after February 22, 2008 exclusive of such date. If you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint. You shall file your answer and proof of service in duplicate with the Clerk of the Superior Court of New Jersey, Hughes Justice Complex-CN 971, Trenton, New Jersey 08625, in accordance with the rules of civil procedure.

This action has been instituted for the purpose of (1) foreclosing a mortgage dated December 17, 1997, made by Clara Harris and Melissa H. Muller as mortgagor(s), to American Business Credit, Inc. recorded on January 14, 1998, for Middlesex County in Book 5439, Page 837 of Mortgages for said County, which mortgage was assigned to the plaintiff, 50 By 50 LLC, by Assignment which has been sent for recording; and (2) to recover possession of, and concerns premises commonly known as 20 Kathryn

St., South River, NJ 08882.

If you are unable to obtain an attorney, you may communicate with the New Jersey State Bar Association by calling 1-732-249-5000. You may also contact the Lawyer Referral Service of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 828-0053. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may communicate with the Legal Services offices of the County of venue by calling 1-(732) 249-7600.

YOU, Amanda Nelums, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of a judgment entered by you against Rodney Harris in the Superior Court of New Jersey on February 2, 2007 known as Judgment No. J-031261-2007 and Case No. CS 306317 34A to secure a debt in an amount that varies from date to date, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

YOU, Melissa J. Blake, are hereby made a party defendant to this foreclosure action because of a judgment entered by you against Rodney Harris in the Superior Court of New Jersey on December 4, 2006 known as Judgment No. J-314091-2006 and Case No. CS 350625 70A to secure a debt in an amount that varies from date to date, and for any lien, claim or interest you may have in, to or against the mortgaged premises.

Theodore J. Fetter
Theodore J. Fetter, Clerk
Superior Court of New Jersey

\$87.20

February 22, 2008

Thinking of selling or buying? Why not call one of these local realtors to provide their expertise?

Obituaries

Adeline Schulman, 85

Adeline Schulman passed away on Friday, Feb. 15 at Haven Hospice in JFK Medical Center in Edison.

She was born in Newark and lived there before moving to Hillside, Clark and South Plainfield.

She was employed by Block & Rose as a bookkeeper and Caret Children's Clothing as a salesperson before retiring.

She was predeceased by her husband of 41 years, Nathan.

She is survived by two daughters, Francine Zucker of Clark and Cindi and husband Stuart Bruno of South Plainfield; a son, Jeffrey and wife Sharon of Edison and a sister, Sylvia Pins, of Clark. She is also survived by five grandchildren, Staci and husband Bob DelPaoli of South Plainfield, Mitchell and wife Jackie Zucker of San Jose, Calif., Rachel and husband Michael Schwartz of Bridgewater, Jared and wife Corinne Schulman of Edison and Nora Bruno of South Plainfield and six great-grandchildren, Kyle, Jake and Ryan DelPaoli and Zachary, Joshua and Tyler Schwartz.

Funeral services were held at The South Plainfield James W. Conroy Funeral Home.

Contributions in her name may be made to Haven Hospice at JFK Medical Center, James Street, Edison, N.J. 08818.

Ana A. (Martinez) Rodriguez, 67

Ana A. (Martinez) Rodriguez died on Sunday, Feb. 17 at Robert Wood Johnson University Medical Center in New Brunswick.

Born and raised in Colombia, Ana came to the United States in 1977 living in Plainfield and Edison before settling in Piscataway 20 years ago.

Mrs. Rodriguez worked as a nurse's aide at the Central Jersey Jewish Home for the Aged in Somerset, retiring in 2005.

Ana enjoyed traveling and helping others, but more importantly she was the center of her family.

Surviving is her husband of 48

years, Julio C.; a daughter, Alexandra Morias and husband, Jose; a son, Julio C. Jr. and wife Ledy, all of Piscataway; three sisters, Herminda Giraldo, Carmenza Marin and Graciela Martinez; four brothers, Emilio, Fabio, Hernando and Aldemar Martinez and three grandchildren, Didier Morias and Alejandro and Julian D. Rodriguez.

Funeral services were held at Mc-Criskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Jewel B. (Bartter) Lunna, 82

Jewel B. (Bartter) Lunna died on Saturday, Feb. 16 at Muhlenberg Regional Medical Center in Plainfield.

Born and raised in Columbia Station, Ohio, Mrs. Lunna had been a resident of South Plainfield since 1952.

In 1949, Jewel married Dr. Richard C. Lunna after graduating from Iowa University. Soon after moving to South Plainfield, she assisted her husband in the construction and daily routine of operating the Plainfield Animal Hospital. Serving as the original owners of the hospital, Mrs. Lunna was an integral part in establishing the animal hospital in the first 10 years. She and husband, Richard, enjoyed 58 years of a happy marriage.

She was a longtime and extremely active member of the Wesley United Methodist Church. Jewel held several positions within the church and was known as the "church decorator," taking care of both the inside and outside of the church.

For nearly 20 years, Mrs. Lunna was an elementary art teacher at the former Hartridge School, Plainfield campus, now known as the Wardlaw-Hartridge School, retiring in 1989.

An avid golfer, Jewel was a member of the Plainfield Country Club West 9 Golf Course and was highly active in the "Tuesday Niners" women's golf league. She was a seven-time league champion and won her last championship at the age of 80.

Mrs. Lunna was also a member of the Westfield Weavers Guild and along with her husband, was a member of the Plainfield Netherwood Tennis Club. In addition, she enjoyed skiing and gardening.

She was predeceased by a sister, Mildred Poling and two brothers, Carroll and Lynn Bartter.

Surviving is her beloved husband, Dr. Richard C. Lunna; a daughter, Jerree Lunna of Mendon, Vt.; a son, Todd Lunna and wife Eileen of Colts Neck and a grandson, Tom Bartell.

Funeral services were held at Mc-Criskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Donations in her name can be made to the Wesley United Methodist Church Memorial Fund.

Elizabeth J. "Betty" Cesaro, 77

Elizabeth J. "Betty" Cesaro died on Tuesday, Feb. 12 at The Woodlands Genesis Eldercare Network in Plainfield.

Born in the Bronx, she resided in Newark and Irvington before moving to South Plainfield in 1969.

Betty had been employed as an assistant office manager for R & C Auto Body in South Plainfield for 11 years before retiring in 1998. Previously Mrs. Cesaro had been employed as a hostess for the former Jacques Restaurant in South Plainfield.

A longtime and well-known resident of the charming East Crescent neighborhood, Betty was a communicant of Our Lady of Czestochowa R.C. Church in South Plainfield, was a member of the Altar Rosary Society and one of the cooks for the church's Feast of St. Anthony. She was also a member of AARP.

She was predeceased by two sisters, Ann Kassay and Joan.

Surviving is a daughter, Lisa Bayous and husband Michael of South Plainfield; two sons, Richard C. Cesaro of Ventura, Calif. and Robert J. Cesaro and wife Shauna of Lake Oswego, Ore.; a sister, Helen Cook of Lakewood; two grandchildren, Lynn and Heather Cesaro and a great grandson, Tyler Palmero.

Also surviving are her dearest of friends and caretakers, Greg and Brenda Hurtkay, Kelley, Matthew and Katrina Hurtkay, Anita Patel and Mariann Robert.

Funeral services were held at Mc-Criskin-Gustafson Home For Funerals.

Donations in her name can be made to the JFK Haven Hospice, c/o JFK Medical Center, 65 James St., Edison, N.J. 08818.

Ernest Raya, 74

Ernest Raya died on Saturday, Feb. 16 in Lauderdale Lake, Fla.

Funeral Services were held at Mc-Criskin-Gustafson Home Funerals.



Red Hat Society celebrates Mardi Gras with the Knights of Columbus.

Red Hat Society Mardi Gras Brunch

The South Plainfield Knights of Columbus Council #6203, in conjunction with the Red Hat Society, held a Mardi Gras brunch on February 2 at their council hall where the Knights served the Red Hat ladies a full course breakfast.

More than 100 Red Hat ladies from South Plainfield, Dunellen and many other local towns attended in their

typical Mardi Gras clothing.

All proceeds from this event will go towards the Knights of Columbus charity and building fund.

The event was chaired by Grand Knight Billy Buttrico, Past Grand Knight Joe Scrudato and Queen Bee Bernadette Barraso, with the help of many Knights of Columbus members.

Junior League Seeks Sponsors For April Literary Luncheon

The Junior League of Elizabeth-Plainfield (JLEP) will host its ninth annual Literary Luncheon on April 18. This fundraising event, which benefits Union County charities, will feature a distinguished panel of authors who will speak about their craft, their stories and their lives over a sit-down luncheon at the historic Grand Summit Hotel. The event will also feature a 50/50 raffle, a silent auction and gift basket drawings. All proceeds from the luncheon will benefit the community-based initiatives of the JLEP serving women and children in crisis.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor or would like to make a donation towards the raffles or auctions, contact the JLEP at JLEP.literaryluncheon@verizon.net or call Ann Marie M. Andrews at (908) 928-0205.

Tickets are \$75 per person or \$700 for a table of 10 and can be ordered by E-mailing the JLEP at JLEP.literaryluncheon@verizon.net.

LEGAL NOTICE

BOROUGH OF SOUTH PLAINFIELD
MIDDLESEX COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

February 15, 2008—Public Notice is hereby given that the following action was taken by the South Plainfield Board of Adjustment at its meeting held on February 14, 2008.

A. Case #48-06/Use—JSM@West End Avenue, Block 535; Lot 16; West End Avenue. The applicant's request for a use variance to operate contractor storage and a separate use variance to store motor vehicles inside a contractor maintenance building was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

B. Case #46-07/S/U/V—United Rental, Block 476; Lot 1.02; Hamilton Blvd. The applicant's request for a use variance and site plan approval was hereby GRANTED subject to additional voluntary conditions.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Beth Khidre
Secretary-Zoning Board of Adjustment
\$28.50 February 22, 2008

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IN MY OPINION

The opinions expressed in this column are not necessarily those of the publisher.

(Continued from page 2)

These are the facts, you can check the records mentioned earlier. So if you want to be objective as to the reasons for the tax increases, check the records.

FRANK A. MIKORSKI

To the Editor:

How has our town changed? We always had a truck route on Hamilton Boulevard, but that changed over the years as our elected officials and Planning Board allowed contractors to build housing developments without first considering the traffic issues. The new Roosevelt School was built to accommodate more students and now, even though there has been a school there for over 60 years, suddenly it's one of the reasons for changing the truck route.

Has anyone considered banning trucks between 7-9 a.m. and 2:30-4 p.m.? Or putting more police officers in that area during those hours? Or what about big, flashing warning signs? Now the trucks go through the New Market Avenue flood zone, and when that road floods out, the trucks are diverted to Sampton Avenue and through the center of our "so called"

downtown area. Which, by the way, also has a lot of foot traffic. Early in the morning, when residents are trying to get their kids to the middle and high school, the trucks get backed up and either make U-turns or cut through George Street, Meadow Lane, Orchard Drive, etc. to get onto Plainfield Avenue. I brought this issue to a council meeting last summer and this is what I was told: "Oh, no. That does not happen. It's illegal for those trucks to be in that area." I was told that I didn't know what I was talking about. I guess Mayor Butrico lives out of that loop. He can't see that going on from his house; I'm right on Sampton Avenue.

Our politicians have become so arrogant that they think it's okay to ignore the voice of one or a few. They're all about who can be beneficial to their own personal agenda. In last week's *Observer*, Mayor Butrico put his own spin on Lt. Murtagh's truck traffic report. He used percentages to insult our intelligence. The percentage may be lower, but the fact remains that from 2005 to 2007 the number of truck accidents increased from 23 to 47. That is more than double, Mr. Butrico. Your inability to admit that you were wrong

and really do something with Lt. Murtagh's report is a disservice to all residents.

JUDY FEELEY

To the Editor:

Like everyone else in town, I received a political mailer last Friday. As one of your councilmembers, I would like to take this opportunity to address some of the accusations. It's unfortunate that the letter in the ad, signed by the mayor, uses outright falsehoods to make its point.

The letter states that taxes went up 18 points. In fact, (Mayor Butrico), the tax increase forced upon the town was less than half that (eight points). Nobody wants to see higher taxes, but let's at least be honest about the numbers if we are going to discuss the issue.

Also misstated were the comparative increases years prior. Under the current mayor, taxes were raised six points in 2007 and eight points the year before. Yet the advertisement stated that the increase this year was bigger than all of them combined for the last ten years. Is this a simple math error or a deliberate attempt at deception? You decide.

Nowhere in the letter does the mayor discuss the fiscal mess that caused taxes to go up. The budget crisis resulted from the previous majority's reckless use of one-time revenue and failure to budget for over \$500,000 in tax appeals.

The political mailer also fails to highlight how taxes were under-billed last August and how more than half the increase people saw on their tax bills resulted from that billing short fall, not the current tax-rate increase. Instead of dividing the bills up evenly, the Democrats divided them so that the August bills were less than half, which meant that the February bills were more than half. A bait and switch tactic is something that will never be practiced or endorsed by Republican council members.

The ad also contains a "tax test." The town's financial office has confirmed that this "test" is a sham. It purposely distorts the homeowner's tax obligation-making it appear twice what it actually is. Could it be this invalid test was sent out to intentionally deceive and alarm the hard-working taxpayers of South Plainfield?

Here is a proposition for the mayor and his party members. Why can't

these issues be debated honestly? Over the past few weeks, the mayor has cited "made-up" numbers and used false statements in his communication with the public. Elected public officials should be held to the highest ethics and integrity. All published material sent and endorsed by public officials should also be held to these standards. This should obviously include the elected leader of South Plainfield.

Perhaps residents have begun to see a pattern. Think back. Almost every time one of the Democrats signs a letter, someone has to write the next week to correct the facts. Is there a reason why?

Issues like the budget crisis, the safety of our roads and finding an alternate truck route are important. Let's deal with them honestly. Let's leave the "creative" political mailers out of this process and deal with the issues facing our residents today!

I wholeheartedly support Mayor Butrico's invitation for all concerned South Plainfield residents to attend the council meetings on Monday evenings at 7 p.m. We hope to see some new faces there where we can openly discuss questions, concerns, and ideas.

COUNCILMAN MATTHEW ANESH

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Midco Residential Services Renews Adopt-A-Spot

Midco Residential Services has renewed its Adopt-A-Spot agreement with the South Plainfield Clean Business Association. Joe Vitulli, general manager, has signed a contract to provide litter removal services for the coming year along the section of Metuchen Road from Belmont Avenue to Harnich Road, and along their frontage on Harnich.

Cardboard and other materials occasionally drop onto the roadway from solid waste trucks. For the past six years, Midco has addressed this problem through the CBA's Adopt-A-Spot program. Midco sends a two-man crew out to pick up debris by hand, and also hires a street sweeper to clean Metuchen Road twice a month. Additionally, they hire a landscaping service to control weeds during the growing season.

The CBA is looking for more adopters for roadsides. Stretches of Belmont and Garfield avenues and the rest of Metuchen Road need attention.

For more information about the Adopt-A-Spot program, contact the Clean Communities Coordinator at (908) 226-7621.

Classifieds

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MERCHANDISING TEAM LEADER—for retail garden centers in Plainfield area. Must have clean license. 2 yrs retail or supervisory exp. preferred. F/T seasonal March to Oct. (631) 745-5834.

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PART-TIME CLERICAL-BETTA-WAY Traffic Systems, a national transportation/logistics company located in South Plainfield is seeking part-time clerical help for days (duties to include data entry, filing, telephone and customer service work) and night-time billers. Flexible hours. Candidates please send resume with cover letter and salary requirements to Bett-A-Way, 110 Sylvia Place, South Plainfield, NJ 07080, or fax to (908) 222-2540.

PROGRAMMER ANALYST: INTERNET Business Systems, Inc. seeks technical professional to develop, design, analyze and implement data warehousing and web-based applications using one of the following skill sets: Oracle, Windows, Sun Solaris, Novell Netware, C, C++, SQL*PLUS, PL/SQL, Oracle RDBMS, Unix, Forms, Reports OR WinRunner, Test Director, Rational ClearQuest, Rational Clear Case, Oracle, Bug Central. Provide data required analysis, prepare program specifications and perform testing. Please apply with 2 copies of resume to HRD, Internet Business Systems, Inc., 100 Plainfield Ave., #3, Edison, NJ 08817.

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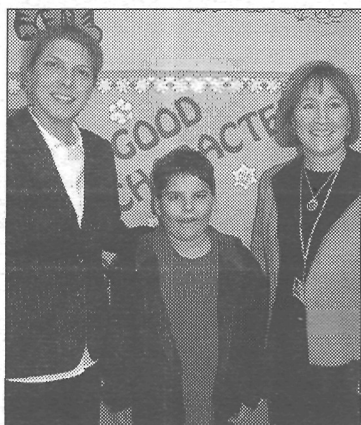
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2007-08 JUNIOR JOURNALIST

Timothy Nuber Named Junior Journalist!



Junior Journalist winner Timothy Nuber with Principal Kelly Richkus and teacher Laura McCreesh.

Timothy Nuber, Kennedy School fourth grader, is this week's winner in the Hometown Heros-South Plainfield Observer sponsored 2007-08 Jun-

ior Journalist Contest for his letter, a social studies assignment, written from the perspective of a colonist in 1783 to family back in England.

Timothy will receive dinner for his family courtesy of Hometown Heros. He will also receive a t-shirt. At the end of the school year, he will be honored at a banquet, along with all the contest winners.

Open to all school-aged children in South Plainfield, The Junior Journalist Contest is a weekly program promoting the art of writing.

Students can submit their original poetry, articles, opinion pieces or essays to their English teachers, who will submit them to the Observer.

If you have any questions, call the Observer at (908) 668-0010, stop by Hometown Heros at 340 Hamilton Blvd. or call (908) 755-4376.

152 Metal Road
Elizabethtown, N.J.

May 7, 1783

Dearest Brother,

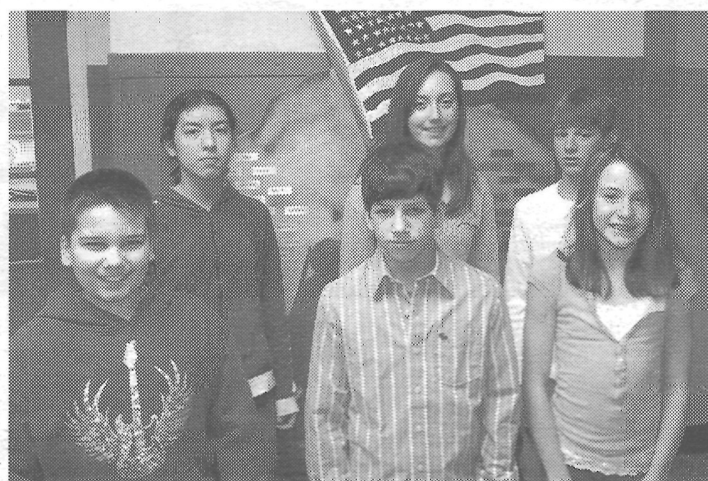
I sincerely hope ye can come to America soon. I doth apologize that I could not write before now. Now that the war is over I can write to ye quite often. I doth not think we would have emerged victoriously from the war without George Washington. In truth, they are making him a president. Oh yes, I forgot that you do not know what a president is, for we are the only country that has one. It is similar to your king back in England, except we all vote for whom we want as president every four years.

Anyway, the war has been taxing on us, and has taken its toll in lives, homes, and money. We all grieve over our losses and we'll never forget the event. The war has especially economically scarred New Jersey. Business is slower than it was during the war with many people wanting weapons, iron gates, and locks for defense.

But I doth not complain, for those were terrible times. Yet, business is not slow, for I make so many things, like nails, hammer heads, wheelbarrows, hatchets, and so much more. On top of that I repair metal items. Yes, being a blacksmith is a very busy job. I also have an apprentice, the age of 17. He's a good lad; he learns fast as lightning.

I dearly miss you and your family. Please do try to come to America soon.

With the Utmost Sincerity,
Timothy Nuber



Students of the Month-South Plainfield Middle School announced the January students of the month, pictured (L to R): Avalanche-Drew Catalina, Monsoon-Isabel Zychlinski, Cyclone-Anthony Ashnault, Lightning-Allison White, Tsunami-Kelly Walsh and Thunder-Tyler Hunt.

police report

- On February 12 Robert Rhodes, 33, of Plainfield was arrested for failure to observe a signal, driving on a suspended license, careless and reckless driving, leaving the scene of an accident, failure to report an accident, using a vehicle without the owners consent, improper letting off of passenger, failure to keep right and eluding a police officer.

- Adam Fennell, 35, of Linden was arrested for obstruction of justice and an outstanding warrant.

- Jarrett Reliford, 25, of Plainfield was arrested for receiving stolen property.

- A Pierce Street resident reported that one of their checks had been forged.

- On February 13 a Frank Court resident reported the theft of a 2007 Honda CBR motorcycle.

- On February 14 Steven R. Strimling, 42, of Lakewood was arrested for driving an unregistered vehicle and an outstanding warrant.

- Vasundhar Bharatiya, 35, of Somerset was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting \$46 worth of cosmetics.

- A South Plainfield resident reported that the driver side window of their vehicle had been broken and a Magellan GPS was taken while parked at Kohl's.

- On February 15 Dora Chaves-flores, 31, of Bound Brook was arrested at the MVC for exhibiting fraudulent government documents for identification.

- A South 9th Street resident reported that the driver side window of their vehicle had been smashed and a Garmin Nuvi navigation unit was taken.

- On February 16 Juana Carera, 69, of Plainfield was arrested at Sears Essentials for shoplifting \$43 worth of costume jewelry.

- A Hudson Street resident reported that a door and window of their home had been damaged and a wallet and jewelry had been taken. One of their vehicles had also been moved, but was undamaged.

- On February 18 Marcos A. Nunez, 32 of East Brunswick was arrested for an outstanding warrant and crossing "no passing" lines.

- Nicole J. Donnell, 19, and Shafiqua Cecilia Harris, 20, both of Plainfield were arrested at Joyce Leslie on Stelton Road for shoplifting clothing.

WHAT'S GOING ON IN MY TOWN

FROM A BUSY BUSY MOM *jd*

Thank you to all who donated blood during the Middle School blood drive on February 12. Thank you to Diane Conroy, Wanda Roach and Kathi Quail for helping and Pizzeria Uno for the donation of ten pizzas.

The PTO used clothing drive will take place on Saturday, Feb. 23 in the middle school parking lot from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please bag and tie all items and place in the Roma Food truck. Any questions, call Debbie Boyle at (908) 791-9439.

Parent/teacher conferences at the middle school will take place on Wednesday, Feb. 27 from 1 to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. No appointment is necessary. Students will have an early dismissal.

Under the direction of Ellyn Schwartz, Nick Scalzo and Susan Schocklin, Peer to Peer's, "Hoops for Heart" will take place during school on Tuesday, Feb. 26.

The eighth grade Washington, D.C. trip is Tuesday, May 27 through Thursday, May 29. A student/faculty basketball game is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5.

South Plainfield Education Foundation will hold a wine and cheese tasting fundraiser on Friday, March 14 at the Italian/American Club on Garibaldi Avenue. Tickets are \$30 a person in advance; \$35 at the door. Watch Comcast Channel 74 Community Bulletin Board for more information. Sponsors for this fundraiser are Witty's Liquors and Flanagan's Restaurant. See a foundation member or call Marjorie Reedy, (908) 561-5800, ext. 302 or Carolyn Allen, (908) 561-3275.

Riley School and Kennedy School's father/daughter dances are Friday, Feb. 22 and 29, respectively.

Roosevelt School will have a visit from "The Cat in the Hat" on Friday, Feb. 22 and Franklin School will celebrate Dr. Seuss's Birthday from 3 to 4 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 29.

Grant School is in the second round of the Battle of the Books.

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